

## INVERMERE PICKLEBALL CLUB

### ANCILLARY PLAY, ETIQUETTE, & SAFETY RULES

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The Invermere Pickleball Club is committed to providing the safest pickleball play opportunities possible, and the extraordinary challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic led to the suspension of all Club activities in March. As the Province relaxes social distancing rules, the Club is afforded an opportunity to resume activities under a modified structure, and as such, the Club can resume limited outdoor play opportunities for Members who adhere to precautions as set out in these **Ancillary Play, Etiquette, & Safety Rules**. Adherence to these rules should be considered the minimum efforts that Members should undertake to stop the spread of the Coronavirus - so Members may undertake additional measures if they deem it appropriate. These extraordinary rules supplement the Club's basic Play, Etiquette, & Safety Rules and reflect the Pickleball BC guidelines, with additional reference to the Pickleball Canada guidelines and the BC Provincial Health Guidelines, and they are in effect until further notice.

The extraordinary recommendations and requirements that are (concerned with managing the transmission of the Coronavirus during the Covid-19 pandemic) imposed on everyone in British Columbia by our National and Provincial Health Authorities, must be strictly adhered to by Club Members during all activities that are conducted under the ambit of the "Invermere Pickleball Club". Though there may be some question as to which of the recommendations and suggestions constitute requirements, the Club treats them all as rules that Members are obliged to follow. The most basic behaviour requirements include "physical distancing" or "social distancing", washing hands frequently, avoiding touching your face, coughing or sneezing into your elbow or a tissue, and avoiding touching potential "contact points" (areas that are frequently touched by other people). The recommendations and rules that are stated here are designed to compliment those basic requirements, and by imposing them on Members, they are intended as reasonably satisfy the requirements of Best Practices.

Each player must determine the level of risk (of both being infected by others and infecting others) that they personally accept. Every Member who participates in a Club activity accepts the fact that there is inherent additional risk of contracting Covid-19 every time they interact with individuals from outside their immediate household bubble. Although these ancillary rules are intended to mitigate the risk of transmission of the Coronavirus, they do not eliminate every opportunity for its transmission.

Arranging for Club-scheduled pickleball games is more complicated than when open-play was available, the rules associated with participation in Club events are more stringent, and participation will require more advance planning by each Member. The records of attendance will be taken at all Club events and will be released to the appropriate authorities to enable contact-tracing if requested.

#### **Prior to Resuming Play**

Only "active" Club Members may participate in Club activities until further notice. As such, even if someone who considers themselves to be a Member, but has yet to validate their membership renewal by paying the 2020 annual Club membership fee, and anyone who might be considered a non-member "guest" at a Club is, in fact not a "Member", and they will not be permitted to participate in any Club events in any capacity - they can only participate after they formalise their membership.

As a prerequisite of participation in any Club events, each Member must agree to behave in accordance with these ancillary recommendations and rules while they attend Club activities. Participating Members must follow the Best Practices acceptance procedure (which is outlined later, and in the SignUpGenius app the Club uses for booking play-times), to indicate their acceptance of these ancillary recommendations and rules and the special waiver (which is also set out later). The special waiver is intended to protect the Club, the Directors of the Club, any appointed representative of the Club, and all other Members of the Club, in connection with the possibility of contracting Covid-19 from any claims of liability connected with members' participation in Club activities.

Members who attend a Club event must cooperate completely with the Club's representative- their "Host" at the event - as well as the operator of the venue during any Club activities. Any Member who breaches these rules (or any of the Club's governing documents), is subject to ejection from the event by the Host, and the Host will report the infraction to the Board of Directors, which may lead to further sanctions.

**NOTE:** (this is a direct quote from Pickleball Canada) "...**Pickleball play in contravention of local, provincial or federal laws or regulations is not an Authorized Activity and consequently is not covered by Pickleball Canada insurance.**"

Before participating in any Club activities:

1) If you are not feeling well or you have ANY of the flu-like symptoms associated with Covid-19, STAY HOME. The list of symptoms prepared by BC Centre for Disease Control includes:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat and painful swallowing
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell [and possibly taste]
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite

Additional information can be obtained at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

2) If you or anyone in your household bubble has been in close physical contact with anyone who exhibits symptoms associated with Covid-19 within the previous 14 days, STAY HOME.

3) If you have just returned from another country, or any area of high infection rates, in the previous 14 days STAY HOME.

4) If you are vulnerable or at high risk of contracting or experiencing the more serious consequences of contracting Covid-19 (such as, but not limited to, if you have underlying health issues associated with age, you are immunosuppressed, or you suffer from serious health problems, such as high blood pressure, pulmonary diseases, diabetes, obesity, or asthma) STAY HOME.

5) Keep in mind that most of the Club-members are seniors, so they are at particular risk of the worst consequences of contracting Covid-19, and that you can spread the Coronavirus to other Members even if you are asymptomatic, so consider your actions and the impact it can have on your fellow Members - be responsible, be careful, and take these Rules seriously.

### **Preparing to Play**

1) If you are a Member, but are not already registered to use the "Signup Genius" app (required for scheduling pickleball games) notify the Club at [invermepickleball@shaw.ca](mailto:invermepickleball@shaw.ca). (Similarly, if you are not a fully registered Member of the Club, arrange for membership through the Club website <http://invermepickleball.ca/>)

2) Players must pre-arrange a designated play-time through SignUpGenius, and every player on the courts must personally sign up accordingly - just naming a partner or your opponents(s) in the comments section is not adequate. Unscheduled "Walk-ons" during Club scheduled events are not permitted, but vacant courts may be booked at the last minute.

3) Each time a member signs up to play, they are acknowledging that they have read, understand, and agree to the special waiver (which is ancillary to the general waiver they signed the first time they participated in a Club events), so read the special waiver (found at the end of this document).

4) One Member from a playing group of 2 to 4 players must sign on as the volunteer Host of their court (presumably it will be the first to book their court), so there is one Host dedicated to each court occupied. Each Host organises the play on their court and ensures all recommendations and rules are adhered to by the players in their group.

5) Although it is preferable for Members to pre-arrange for a partner (preferably from their own household) and opponent(s), it may not always be possible. If a Member is unable to prearrange a partner and/or opponent(s), they can sign in as a Host on SignUpGenius and recruit other players via the "Comments" field in SignUpGenius. They should indicate what they want to play (doubles v. singles, beginners v. advanced, etc) and they should state their own skill level. They must also provide their phone number or email address and ask interested Members to communicate with them prior to signing up. If an adequate number of partners/opponents do not sign up by 9:00 AM, on the day before the booked time-slot, that Host should delete their own booking so that court is released for potential booking by other members.

6) Spectators are not welcome. Furthermore, playing Members must not assemble around the courts before or after their scheduled games - they must not arrive at the venue more than 5 minutes before their scheduled time-slot, and they must depart immediately after their session. The normal social aspects of Club events are suspended for the time being.

7) Games will be scheduled for 1½ hour intervals, with 15 minutes between each interval to avoid contact between groups (to avoid interaction during the exchange). The length of play during the scheduled time-slot may be shortened at the players' discretion, but any players who have stopped playing (other than for a short break if they intend to resume play) must depart the courts once they are finished playing.

8) Venues will be occupied below capacity to increase the spacing between players in adjoining games, with every second court remaining vacant (so for instance, 2 out of 3 courts can be occupied at the Pine Ridge courts, and 2 out of 4 at the Copper Point courts, and a maximum of 8 players are permitted at those courts when 2 courts are occupied.)

9) The Copper Point courts are dedicated to use by the Club during scheduled play-times, so non-members are not to be permitted on the courts during those times. Unfortunately the Club will have no formal control over use of the Pine Ridge courts during the scheduled play-times, but non-member walk-ons can be discouraged by the Members in attendance.

10) If practicable, stay with your partner on one side of the court - do not switch sides when a game ends. However, if weather conditions (usually wind or sun) provide a significant advantage to one side of the court over the other, exchanging sides is permitted - but players must observe social distancing during the switch.

11) Instructional sessions are suspended.

12) Play structure will be staged. The rules connected with each consecutive stage will be relaxed in accordance with the Club's understanding of the current (and anticipated) recommendations and rules of the Provincial Health Authority, so changes may be required in due course. Any changes deemed necessary will be announced accordingly. If the Provincial Health Authority determines that risk levels are rising, or if any participating Members contract Covid-19, relaxations of these rules may need to be reversed for an undetermined period. Starting on May 17, 2020, Club Members must abide by the Provincial Phase 2 rules. As the Club deems it safe to advance through the stages (or move backward) announcements will be made to the membership.

a) Phase 2: Both "singles" and "doubles" games are permitted, but participants must keep the same partner (preferably from the same household) and opponents during a session. Selection of partners and opponents is left to the participating Members' discretion, but there will be no changes during any given time-slot.

b) Phase 3: Doubles-play continues with the same partner, but opponents may change.

c) Phase 4: Quasi-normal play with mixing of partners and opponents among the courts, but there remains a limit to the number of players permitted at the venue during a play session. One extra player (on a "Bye") will be permitted at each court.

d) Phase 5: Resumption of "normal" play (unrestricted by these rules). This is expected to coincide with development of a vaccine that is available locally and/or the National and Provincial Health Authorities announce the pandemic to be ended, and pre-pandemic life (perhaps modified) is restored.

13) Wearing of face masks and gloves is not required, but is optional.

14) Players must bring their own balls and rackets, chairs, and water, etc.

15) There will be no sharing or exchanging equipment, etc.

16) Avoid touching "contact points", where the potential for infection through touch are identified, such as (but not limited to):

- Gates and fences.
- Nets and posts.
- Other players' rackets.
- Other players' balls.
- Garbage cans (pack out your garbage).
- Seating areas.
- Bathroom facilities.

17) Sanitize your racket and all balls, As well as potential high "touch points" such as net poles and gates before, during, and after each game. Players must bring your own hand sanitizer and/or wipes.

18) When your ball travels to another court, ask the players in that court to kick your ball back to you.

19) Do not tap rackets at the end of a game.

**BY ACKNOWLEDGING AND ACCEPTING THIS AGREEMENT YOU ASSUME CERTAIN RISKS AND OBLIGATIONS AND AGREE TO WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE OR CLAIM COMPENSATION**

**Acknowledgement of Risk**

The Member acknowledges and agrees with the Invermere Pickleball Club that the risk associated with attending and playing pickleball sessions is contracting Covid-19.

**Acceptance of Risk**

The Member accepts the risk of contracting Covid-19 by attending events organised by the Club.

**Obligations of Member**

- 1) The Member shall strictly abide by any and all policies of the Club concerning the control of Covid-19.
- 2) The Member will notify the Host who represents the Invermere Pickleball Club or an Officer of the Club if they observe any other Member of the Club not strictly abiding to the Club policies concerning the control of Covid-19.
- 3) The Member will not attend or use the pickleball courts if they are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19, if they have been in immediate contact with anyone who is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19, or if they are otherwise under an obligation to self-isolate or remain under quarantine.

**Acceptance of Obligations**

The Member accepts these obligations under this Agreement and acknowledges that a breach of these obligations on their part could result in their suspension or expulsion as a Member of the Invermere Pickleball Club and/or the closure of the pickleball courts until the Covid-19 pandemic is declared to be at an end by the BC Health Authorities.

**Waiver and Release**

The Member hereby waives and releases the Club, its Directors of the Club, any appointed representative of the Club, and all other Members of the Club, of any and all claims the Member has or may have in the future for:

- 1) any loss or damage the Member may suffer due to contracting Covid-19, including sickness or death as a result of attending Club events, or as a result of Officers of the Club not enforcing any of its rules or policies; and
- 2) Any removal or other discipline imposed on the Member by the Club resulting from the Member's breach of their obligations under this agreement.

**General**

- 1) This agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of British Columbia; and
- 2) any litigation involving the parties to this agreement shall be brought within the Province of British Columbia.

3) The Member hereby agrees to indemnify the Club, its Directors, and its other Members for all liability, expense, costs, damages, losses, claims, actions, or causes of action incurred or suffered by the Club by reason of the Member's breach of this agreement

**The Member has read this agreement, fully understands its content, and agrees to be bound by its terms. The Member understands that they have given up substantial legal rights by acknowledging and agreeing to this agreement. The Member acknowledges that they are over 19 years of age.**

**Each time you submit a reservation request in your name through your use of the Invermere Pickleball Club's signup page on the SignUpGenius app, you reaffirm that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Invermere Pickleball Club Best Practices (as set out herein, and all of the documents included under the "Best Practices" link available in the Club's page in SignUpGenius and on the Club website (<http://invermepickleball.ca/club-documents.php>)).**